

Chimney Road Recreational Access Project

PUBLIC SCOPING

DOI-BLM-NV-C020-2013-0026-EA

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District
Sierra Front Field Office
5665 Morgan Mill Road
Carson City, NV 89701
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BLM Seeks Input on Chimney Road Recreational Access Project

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Sierra Front Field Office in coordination with the Great Basin Institute (GBI), Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space, and the Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID) is proposing to construct and maintain a recreational staging area on Chimney Road, in Washoe County, Nevada. To evaluate this proposal, the BLM will be preparing an environmental assessment in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act.

Key elements of this project include:

- Construct and maintain a ¼ acre recreational staging area;
- Install informational signage; and
- Install directional signage on Chimney Road to the new recreational staging area.

The proposal will also evaluate the need for all weather surfacing (gravel) from the end of the Chimney Drive pavement and to the recreational staging area (approximately 500 feet) for Option 1.

The need for this is project to provide the public with a safe and designated recreational staging area. In an effort to protect Sun Valley's drinking water and reduce impacts to Sun Valley Regional Park, the existing unapproved staging area adjacent to the SVGID water tanks on Chimney Road will no longer be available for off-highway vehicle (OHV) parking as of the summer of 2013 under a separate BLM/SVGID action.

To assist the BLM in evaluating this proposal, your input at this early stage is requested:

- Do you have knowledge of sensitive or unique resources within the proposed project area?
- Do you have other relevant information about the proposed project area that could assist us with our evaluation?

**** Public Workshop ****

A public workshop will be held on June 20, 2013 at the Sun Valley Neighborhood Center, 115 West 6th Avenue, Sun Valley; the workshop will be from 6 pm until 8 pm. A presentation on the project will be made at 6:30 pm. The format will be an open house, not a hearing. Staff from BLM, Washoe County and SVGID will be available to provide information and view maps of the proposal.

This 30-day scoping period is **from June 10, 2013 until July 9, 2013.**

Information and maps are available on-line on the Carson City District NEPA webpage at: http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/carson_city_field/blm_information/nepa.html.

Should you have any questions, or to submit your comments, contact: Brian Buttazoni, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, 5665 Morgan Mill Rd, Carson City, Nevada 89701 or email at: bbuttazoni@blm.gov. Comments can also be faxed to: 775-885-6147 attn: Brian Buttazoni. For more information call Brian at: 775-885-6004.

Privacy notice: before including address, phone number, email-address, or any other personal identifying information in your comments, be advised that your entire comment, including personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While individuals may request that the BLM withhold personal identifying information from public view, the BLM cannot guarantee it will be able to do so. If you wish us to withhold your personal information you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

Resources Considered for Analysis

The following resources were considered during an internal interdisciplinary team meeting on this proposal held on May 20, 2013 based on project revisions. Based on that review, resources *present* and *may be affected* by this proposal would be fully analyzed in the EA.

Category I, Supplemental Authorities.

Resource	Present Yes/No	Affected Yes/No	Rationale
Air Quality	Y	N	The Project area is in a non-attainment area for pollutants. During construction activities there would be a negligible increase in particulates (dust), but this would not change the overall air quality of the Project area.
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	N		Resource not present.
Cultural Resources	N		Based on a review of previous surveys in the Project area, historic properties are not present.
Environmental Justice	N		Resource not present.
Farm Lands (prime or unique)	N		Resource not present.
Floodplains	N		Resource not present.
Invasive, Nonnative Species	Y	N	Best management practices would be incorporated into the project design to minimize potential spread of invasive, non-native species.
Migratory Birds	Y	N	The Project area is highly disturbed, nesting in the Project area is highly unlikely. If the Project is implemented during the migratory bird nesting season (March 1 to July 15), clearance surveys would be conducted to verify that nesting migratory birds are not present (within 300 feet). If active nests are observed during surveys, disturbance should not occur until after young have fledged or nests are abandoned unless a 300ft buffer can be provided around nests.
Native American Religious Concerns	Y	N	On May 15, 2013 a letter was sent to the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony with information on this Project. To date no issues have been raised concerning this Project. Consultation will continue through implementation.
Threatened or Endangered Species (animals)	N		Resource not present.
Threatened or Endangered Species (plants)	N		Resource not present.
Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	N		Resource not present.
Water Quality (Surface/Ground)	Y	N	Best management practices would be incorporated into the Project to ensure that water quality is not affected.
Wetlands/Riparian Zones	N		Resource not present.
Wild and Scenic Rivers	N		Resource not present.
Wilderness/WSA	N		Resource not present.

Category II, Other Resources.

Resource or Issue**	Present Yes/No	Affected Yes/No	Rationale
BLM Sensitive Species (animals)	Y	N	Based on a review of existing data, no active or historic nests for raptors occur within a three mile radius of the Project area. The Project area is highly disturbed, nesting in the Project area is highly unlikely. If the Project is implemented during the raptor nesting season (March 1 to August 1) clearance surveys would be conducted to verify that nesting raptors are not present (within ½ mile). If active nests are observed during surveys, disturbance should not occur until after young have fledged or nests are abandoned unless a ½ mile buffer can be provided around nests.
BLM Sensitive Species (plants)	N		Resource not present.
Fire Management/Vegetation	N		Resource not present.
Forest Resources	N		Resource not present.
General Wildlife	Y	Y	Will be analyzed in the EA.
Land Use Authorization	N		Resource not present.
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	N		Resource not present.
Livestock Grazing	Y	N	Although the Wedekind Grazing Allotment overlaps the Project area, the Allotment is in non-use due to the urbanization adjacent to the public lands. Therefore this resource would not be affected.
Minerals	N		Resource not present.
Paleontological	N		Resource not present.
Recreation	Y	Y	May be analyzed in the EA.
Socioeconomics	N		Resource not present.
Soils	Y	N	Best management practices would be incorporated into the Project to ensure that water quality is not affected.
Travel Management	N		Resource not present.
Vegetation	Y	Y	Will be analyzed in the EA.
Visual Resources	Y	N	The Project area is within Visual Resource Management Class IV which allows major modification of the character of the landscape. The Project is consistent with Class IV.
Wild Horses and Burros	N		Resource not present.

The draft EA for this proposal would be made available for a 30-day public review and comment period in the fall of 2013.

Preliminary Identification of Resource Issues

Biological Resources

- The Project area *is not* within greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) preliminary priority or general habitat, a BLM Sensitive Species and candidate species for listing on the Endangered Species Act.